

***"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."***



**P.O. 1862  
Appleton, WI 54912-1862  
[www.vvawi351.org](http://www.vvawi351.org)**

**September - October  
2021**



**Fox Valley's Only Chartered Vietnam Veterans  
Organization Serving Area Veterans Since 1987**

**CURRENT OFFICERS**  
**Officers / Board of Directors**

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Vice President	Gary Brynjulfson
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Adopt-A-Family	Dennis Van Hoof
Chaplain	Mike Weaver
Chapter Social Events	AVVA
Scholarship	Wade Van Ryzin
Reflections of Vietnam Coordinator	John Koehler
FV Veterans Council & Recognition	Dennis Van Hoof
Fundraising/Charity Drives	Dennis Van Hoof
Membership	Joe Eiting
Nomination/Constitution	Board of Directors
POW★ MIA	Glen Zimmerman
Toxic Chemical Issues	Joe Eiting
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dennis Van Hoof
Sunshine	Bill Olcott
Taps	Larry Cavanaugh
Retirement Home Visits	John VandenHeuvel
Webmaster	Angie Coenen
Newsletter Editor	Dennis Bowman

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*Note: Contact list is blanked out on Web version*

# Chapter Tales

It is my hope that you all enjoyed this past summer. I recently traveled to southern Illinois to say goodbye to Natasha, my granddaughter who is going into the Navy. In October, we are going to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. An old friend lost his son in a car accident, and he spread his ashes alongside a lake on 'Going-to-the-Sun Road'. He says it is just beautiful up there, I will find out.

Our fall POW-MIA fundraiser is taking place over three weekends beginning August 27-28. If you get a call to assist, please do so, if you get a call to assist and are able to, please do. We are so blessed, the folks in the area always come through for all the Veterans Clubs with such great support.

Our EDU program has been set up at a few venues this year and we have a few missions to complete this fall. I have replaced the original tires on our Display trailer with more of a heavier ply transport type, and they don't look half flat all the time. I am sure that John K. will have more on future missions.

The VVA National Convention is coming up and perhaps the Delegates will decide on our future as an organization. We will be forming a committee to discuss our Chapter intentions. What do we do? New name, what? I think we should join the other Vietnam Veterans group in Appleton, since some of our members already belong to them. We always wanted them to join us and now the tables are turned. I am sure there will be many opinions and ideas from you all.

We do have a few members in sickbay, though it is a conundrum if I should put out the information. If I let the Chapter know, some will appreciate the gesture while others will read me the Riot Act and say their sickness is nobody's business. Please let your family email me with the information and tell me whether or not it is OK to pass it on to the rest of the membership. At the very least, if you would let your family email me with the information and if it is ok to pass it on to the rest of the membership. If nothing else, let Bill Olcott know so he can send out a get-well card.

I have been observing a real serious situation in the ranks; it seems that there is real consternation between some members, and it is tearing us apart. It should be beneath one's principles to act towards one another as some do. Some think that it is my fault and if that is what you believe, I will take the blame. A few years ago. I had a conversation with a disgruntled member. He said, Larry what happened to that happy-go-lucky person that you were four years ago. Why did you change? Now you are all business, you seem angry and now you never seem to get to really talk with anyone anymore. Can we get back to the old Larry? I replied, "Well, it is members like you that demand that I always take their side, and that I do everything their way. You should hear of all the angry calls I get from members just like you who are making their demands of me. I don't think I was an a-hole when I took this position, though I invite you and anyone else to look in the mirror and see if you have played a part in turning me into one. I will tell you one thing: I have come a long way since I presided over my first meeting, I have more than satisfied myself, but you will never see me abscond the position, you are stuck with me come hell or high water, or I am voted out." Rant over!

Things can get tough for us in this stage of our life; we definitely do not need to make it worse for one another. We need to show what we are made of and let go of the petty things that bother us. We need to respect our brethren in this Chapter. None of us are any better than the next and we are all nearing the end of the decades of our stumbling around on this earth. For God's sake!!! Let's have empathy for one another because, looking at the big picture, none of this makes any difference. Let us, in the future refrain from being so pompous in our attitudes and make an effort to co-exist.

And may the good Lord bless you all! Larry C.

# An Editor's Musings

Greetings All,

Hope everything is fine with y'all (I do like that phrase). I am sitting in my home office with the humidity beginning to climb again. I sure am happy that I was able to mow my lawn yesterday. We remember that day 9/11/2001, our generation's "Day of Infamy, that started this mess in Afghanistan. Bin Laden has been eliminated, unfortunately there are others with the same mindset that continue to roam Afghanistan and Pakistan. We have been there 20 years and it was time for our troops to come home, but not this way. As a Veteran, it disappoints me to the hilt the way things have transpired in Kabul and the surroundings. Enough said! May God be with our people, both citizen and local helpers during this time of upheaval.

We are just a few weeks still the leaves start changing and dropping to the ground. It has been a hot, cold dry and wet summer. I think the only weather we did not have is snow. Oh well, "this is Wisconsin."

The news of the past 10 days has been horrible to say the least. I always thought that the US "never left anyone behind!" I am embarrassed as a veteran in the leadership of our country! This is my opinion, but so far, we have not had our First Amendment removed. The truth is not coming from the Administration, they are making things look rosy!

My blood pressure is rising so I will quit my rant now!

May God be with the people of Afghanistan and the many US citizens that are in the midst of this turmoil.

*Dennis*

P.S. Since I composed my musing, a tragedy of nation-shaking proportions happened. Our country has lost 13 brave heroes in the bombing in Kabul. This should have never happened if the orders to evacuate had been done correctly. The people should have been evacuated, the armaments removed and then the troops. Over 100 people killed for what reason! May our Lord take them in His hands as well as the survivors.

DB

**The September 7th BOD Meeting at 1100 hours and the next Chapter Meeting; 1100 hours, 9 September, both at the Post 38 Am Legion Clubhouse in Appleton.**

# Wisconsin Vietnam War Casualties

The casualty list contains the names of our brothers lost during the months from September — October. The name listed are from the three from the five county area and seven from the rest of the state.

## September

PAUL EMERSON CHRISTJOHN	ARMY	PFC	ONEIDA	OUTAGAMIE	9/9/1968
GARY ALAN WALDORF	ARMY	PFC	GREEN BAY	BROWN	9/11/1968
ROBERT JAMES BECK	USMC	LCPL	OSHKOSH	WINNEBAGO	9/18/1968
NEIL NORMAN GREINKE	USAF	1LT	FRANKLIN	MILWAUKEE	9 /11/1969
KURT FRANCIS PONATH	ARMY	PFC	CUDAHY	MILWAUKEE	9 /12/1968
WILLIAM HENRY HANSON	ARMY	1LT	PARK FALLS	PRICE	9 /12/1968
MICHAEL LEE MULCAHY	USMC	PFC	STOUGHTON	DANE	9 /13/1967
EDWARD KENNETH RYAN	ARMY	SGT	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	9 /13/1968
CORNELIS A VANDERSTERREN	ARMY	CPL	WAUKESHA	WAUKESHA	9 /13/1968
EDMOND WILLIAM RICHARDSON	ARMY	SSG	POTOSI	GRANT	9 /13/1970

## October

TIMOTHY JAMES MURPHY	ARMY	SSG	GREEN BAY	BROWN	10/19/1967
RICHARD MICHAEL BANASZYNSKI	ARMY	SP4	PULASKI	BROWN	10/1/1968
DAVID JAMES BAITINGER	ARMY	PVT	WINNECONNE	WINNEBAGO	10/1/1968
JERALD STEVEN DELONG	ARMY	CPL	DE SOTO	CRAWFORD	10 /12/1970
SCOTT THOMAS WIMMER	USMC	PFC	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	10 /14/1968
MICHAEL JAY WILSON	USMC	PFC	SUSSEX	WAUKESHA	10 /14/1968
WILLIAM HAROLD STROUD	ARMY	PFC	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	10 /14/1970
JAMES EDWARD LARSON	ARMY	SGT	MAUSTON	JUNEAU	10 /17/1967
JERRY FREDERICK DEGRAY	USMC	LCPL	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	10 /17/1967



# Fundraising

## POW/MIA FUNDRAISER

## PLEASE STEP UP

**Thanks to your help** VVA – 351 had a successful Agent Orange fundraiser in May and we are looking to do the same with the POW/MIA fundraiser in August and September.

These two fundraisers help provide the services we offer to fellow Veterans with contributions to Vets and Friends, the Veterans Village Project, the Honor Flight program. Scholarships for our members, in most cases, grandchildren. Funds raised also provide High School juniors and seniors and colleges some knowledge about the Vietnam conflict with presentations by Vets and the traveling display at their school.

Team captains are starting to make calls for the volunteers to assist with this effort for each of their respective stores. If you haven't heard from them already expect to hear from them soon.

**September 17, 18 (Friday - Saturday) 0900 – 1800**

**3 shifts**

Fleet Farm – Appleton  
Festival Foods - Darboy  
Festival Foods – Menasha

**September 24, 25 (Friday – Saturday) 0900 -1800**

**3 shifts**

Woodman's – Appleton



**Jim Morohn, Frank Witt and Dave Grossman at Fleet Farm on August 28th. Thanks Guys!**

## **Veterans Day Nursing/Retirement Home Schedule 2021**

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

Eagle Point Senior Living 955 E John Street, Appleton	10:00 to 11:00
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Brewster Village 3300 W Brewster Street, Appleton	2:30 to 3:30
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### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Appleton Retirement Community 200 W Packard Street, Appleton	10:00 to 11:00
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Rennes Health and Rehab 325 E Florida Avenue, Appleton	2:00 to 3:00
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### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

Good Shepherd Services 607 E Bronson Street, Seymour	10:00 to 11:00
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Willow Lane Assisted Living 850 W Elsner Road, Appleton	2:00 to 3:00
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The mission of Shirley and Jack and others, to visit our brother and sister veterans, is extremely important! These people served as we did and are often very lonely. They may not have any relatives or friends in the area to visit them. Keep Shirley and Jack as well as those they visit in your prayers that they may have a comfortable life for their remaining days.

Also, go out with Jack and Shirley and visit these heroes. You may even make a new friend! The time you spend with our brothers and sisters is priceless!



# **Notices**

## **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

If you know of a Chapter member that is not feeling well or is having surgery, please contact Bill Olcott at 920-733-8199. Bill sends get-well cards to these folks so they

## **THE QUARTERMASTER CORNER**

There are four products that are provided at every membership meeting. Available are the Military White Dress shirts, Polo shirts with the VVA patch, white jackets with all patches and finally, you can purchase a VVA 351 name tag. The store with samples is open after every membership meeting.

# AVVA Information

**Veterans,** You may have seen more active participation by spouses and friends of Veterans and wondered why. As family and friends many of us were supporting and helping “behind the scenes”. I was especially interested in the education of toxins and environmental exposures which brought me to the VVA sponsored Town Hall meetings and the state VVA/AVVA combined quarterly committee meetings in Waupaca where I was asked to join the AVVA. We are not just a “ladies” group, we are men and women who want to “stand by all Veterans.” So here is more information about AVVA. Perhaps more would like to become a part of a great program. (We generally meet early evening at the Vet Center on North Richmond St Appleton)

## **What Is AVVA?**

As Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), we are passionate about our work and the real life issues facing Veterans and their families. We strive to create a positive impact on our Veterans and their families by making life better. AVVA is a national, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to advancing the awareness of issues affecting Veterans, their families, and their communities. AVVA strives to ensure that ALL Veterans attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We lend our expertise, support, and leadership to all veteran related programs, community service, and social activities, while remaining actively involved in our own programs and educational endeavors.

## **Who can become a member?**

AVVA is made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans' issues. AVVA is a catalyst for action, healing, reconciliation, mutual support, and fellowship. With more than 10,000 members, we are a thriving and strong organization. AVVA is a non-partisan, tax exempt organization.

**Regular membership** shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation.

**Dual membership** shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in VVA.

## **AVVA MISSION STATEMENT?**

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

## **AVVA VISION STATEMENT?**

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Chris Van Ryzin

**cbvanryzin@gmail.com 920-734-9638**

# Events & Offers

## **Saturday Morning Breakfast at Angel's**

We now meet on every Saturday morning at the regular time of **0830 — 1000 hours**. Join us on Saturday mornings.

ALL Veterans of the US Armed Forces are welcome; bring a vet buddy along—there is a lot of room. We have Vets from all wars at our table(s). **Angel's** is at 1401 E. John St., Appleton —between College & John St. roundabout.

## **Vets and Friends of Wisconsin Inc. 2508 N. Richmond St. Appleton**

The coffee house is open and provides free soup and sandwich every **Saturday** to Vets and friends from 11am-2pm. We have partnered with St. Joe's Food Program to provide for short and long term needs.

# **Reflections of Vietnam**

**Friday, August 20, 2021 - Timber Rattler Stadium**

**Moderator- TBD**

**Driver- Gary Brynjulfson**

**Set up -1500**

**Take down -1900**

**Uniform of the day - Chapter polo shirt or white shirt**

**Display only- no formal program**

We are looking for 5-6 regular or AVVA Chapter 351 members

**Event Summary** - This is a thank you event for donors who provided support to the Fox Valley Veterans Council during the last year. Chapter members who volunteer are invited for dinner and refreshments at this event. The Oshkosh War Museum will also be present and have a number of their vehicles on display. This will be a fun event that will allow some great networking opportunities and a chance for local business owners and charitable foundations to become familiar with our educational program.

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021 - UW Green Bay**

**Moderator- John Koehler**

**Driver- Gary Brynjulfson**

**Set up -0800 ( approx)**

**Take down -1500 ( approx)**

**Uniform of the day - White shirt, black pants and military hat**

This will be a formal program with 2-3 personal reflections for the audience

We are looking for 6-10 regular or AVVA Chapter 351 members

**Event Summary** - We have been to the UWGB campus twice during the last 5 years and the attendance has been somewhat limited. This time around Elaina is going to be inviting a number of area high schools, professors from the history and political science departments, as well as the Chancellor of the University who will be speaking during our program. The student veteran club is playing an important role in planning this and is looking forward to "breaking bread" with us so we will be able to share military service stories over a catered meal. All Marines know what day this is and there will be a cake served to celebrate the 246th birthday of our beloved Corps.

The "Reflections of Vietnam Program" belongs all of us. Please consider joining us if you can for these events for an interesting and educational experience that will allow you to connect with fellow vets, students, and the public.

## **Reflections of Vietnam (cont.)**

**Thursday, November 11, 2021 - UW Oshkosh**

**Moderator - Jerry Clusen**

**Driver - Gary Brynjulfson**

**Set up - TBD (around 1200)**

**Take down - TBD (around 1830-1900)**

**Uniform of the day - White shirt, black pants and military hat**

A later day event is being planned to possibly include local veteran and high school attendance in addition to the UWO campus. Formal programs/presentations with personal reflections are being planned. More details will be provided as they become available.

Chapter 351 regular or AVVA members are encouraged to participate even if it is for only for a portion of the day. As the schedule becomes firm, a sign up sheet with times will be provided to help plan support for set up, display and presentation support, and then take down.

**Event Summary** - This Veterans Day event is the first time Chapter 351 will be presenting our EDU program on the UWO campus. This is after last year's scheduled Veterans Day program was cancelled/postponed due to the pandemic.

John Koehler, Tim Mulloy and I toured the UWO campus with Timber Smith, UWO Veterans Resource Coordinator and Steve Freund, President of UWO Student Veterans Association. The facilities being considered are excellent for both the display and presentation(s).

Since this follows the day after the UWGB program, many are considering supporting both. We hope these "pandemic coming out" Reflections of Vietnam EDU programs at both UWGB on November 10th and UWO on November 11th get everyone motivated to come out and join the fun of celebrating both the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day 2021!

Additional details will be provided as they become available. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Clusen at [jerry.clusen@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.clusen@gmail.com) or 920-205-4494.



## Fish Fry Friday at Rawhide Youth Ranch



Seven VVA 351 Brothers and their wives spent a few hours enjoying a great Fish Fry and great conversation at the rural New London facility. The new Dining Hall is spacious and a wonderful addition to the campus. Thank you Rawhide folk for such great hospitality !!!





**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
**Appleton Area**  
**634 Bowers Lane**  
**Kaukauna WI 54130-1004**

